

United States Department of Agriculture



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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-4-40

SUBJECT: LTP – CSP – NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Purpose. To explain the revised eligibility procedures to determine producer compliance with the CSP water quality provisions.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004.

Minnesota and Iowa share the Blue Earth River Watershed, which is one of the 18 pilot hydrologic units selected for participation in the 2004 Conservation Security Program (CSP). To be eligible for CSP applicants must have met soil and water quality criteria for the previous 2 years. The water quality provisions call for producers to have followed the NRCS standards for Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and Waste Utilization (633). In the Blue Earth Watershed we had initially decided that producers would be allowed to follow the applicable NRCS state standard for the location of the land they wanted to enroll.

Last week, after consulting Chief Knight and Carol Jett, National CSP Program Manager, it was decided that the differences in the Iowa and Minnesota state nutrient management standards were too great for an equitable CSP sign-up in the Blue Earth Watershed. Based on that decision we revised the Blue Earth CSP water quality criteria to allow all producers to be eligible if it was determined that they met the Iowa NRCS Nutrient Management standard and followed any applicable Minnesota state laws for applying manure.

This decision is a one-time accommodation to insure an equitable CSP sign-up. The existing Minnesota NRCS Nutrient Management Standard is an excellent document and represents the most technically correct recommendations for balancing crop production and environmental protection. The standard relies on procedures developed by the University of MN which has conducted years of extensive research and field data to support these guidelines.

Outside of the Blue Earth Watershed CSP eligibility determination process, this decision will not affect our technical assistance for implementing the nutrient management practice.

/s/ Ann English, acting for
WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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